



2015

2014-2015 Annual Report

Center for Public Health Initiatives

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2014-2015 Annual Report

Disciplines

Public Health

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Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives
Annual Report 2014-2015 Academic Year

TAKING ROOT, GROWING STRONG





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LETTER FROM THE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends in Public Health,

Over the last several years the Center for Public Health Initiatives has seen unprecedented growth, strong collaborations, and a multitude of opportunities and initiatives. The theme of our 2014/15 annual report, *Taking Root, Growing Strong*, is supported by the many accomplishments of our students, faculty, fellows, and friends of

the public health community. We have stepped into our mission to educate and train new and emerging public health leaders, foster multi-disciplinary collaborations, and promote excellence in public health research and community partnerships. We have made significant strides, including:

- Completing our comprehensive strategic plan and establishing our primary areas of focus
- Engaging with our 135 CPHI Fellows who bridge 11 schools and departments within UPenn and over 30 external partner organizations
- Graduating our largest cohort of 40 Master of Public Health (MPH) students, many of whom had dual concentrations from social work, law, medicine, and dentistry
- Facilitating over 6,000 hours of MPH student fieldwork experiences, fostering both student growth and strong community partnerships
- Expanding our Service Link initiative to five service sites and 60 student volunteers
- Further developing our CPHI Research arm and successfully launching our first cohort of six student public health research assistantships

We are thankful for the leadership and input from the CPHI advisory board and our strategic planning team. As we continue to take root and grow strong, we look forward to continued scholarship and partnerships to increase the presence and participation in public health activities across the University.

Jennifer Pinto Martin, PhD MPH

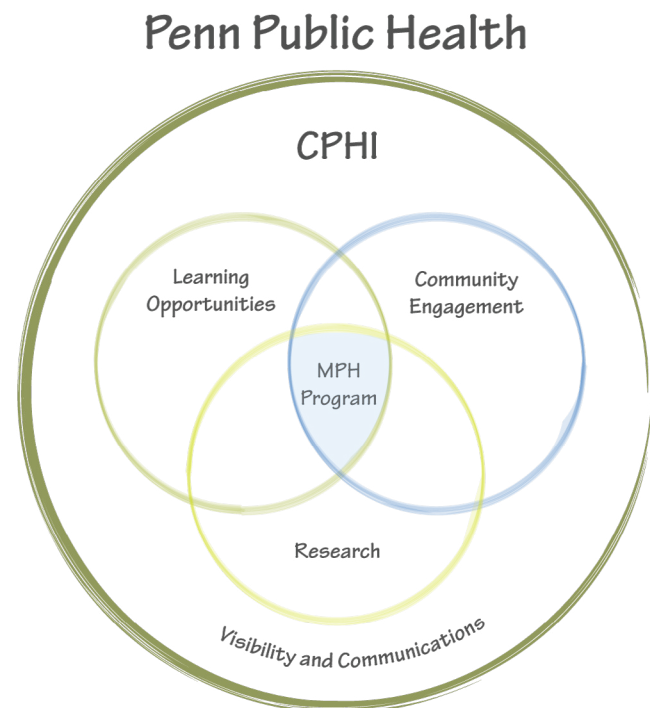
Executive Director, CPHI

ABOUT CPHI

The Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI) was created as a university-wide center in 2007 by the Provost's Office in order to create an organizational home and academic base for Penn's multi-disciplinary, inter-school Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program. CPHI has grown into the epicenter of public health activities at the University, with structured initiatives around public health education, research, and community engagement. All of our work continues to provide support and growth for our world-class MPH program, a program housed in the School of Medicine with the collaboration of eight schools across the University.

CPHI is led by Jennifer Pinto-Martin, Executive Director and Viola MacInnes/Independence Professor of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. Throughout her tenure, Dr. Pinto-Martin has engaged over 100 CPHI Fellows across 11 schools, fostered rapid growth of the MPH degree program, and structured a team of staff and directors to support all Center activities.

CPHI has five strategic focus areas. As shown in the diagram to the right, the MPH program is at the heart of CPHI, connecting future leaders in public health to our learning opportunities, community-engaged work, and public health research. CPHI's comprehensive communications strategy enhances the visibility and focus of public health both within and outside of the University.





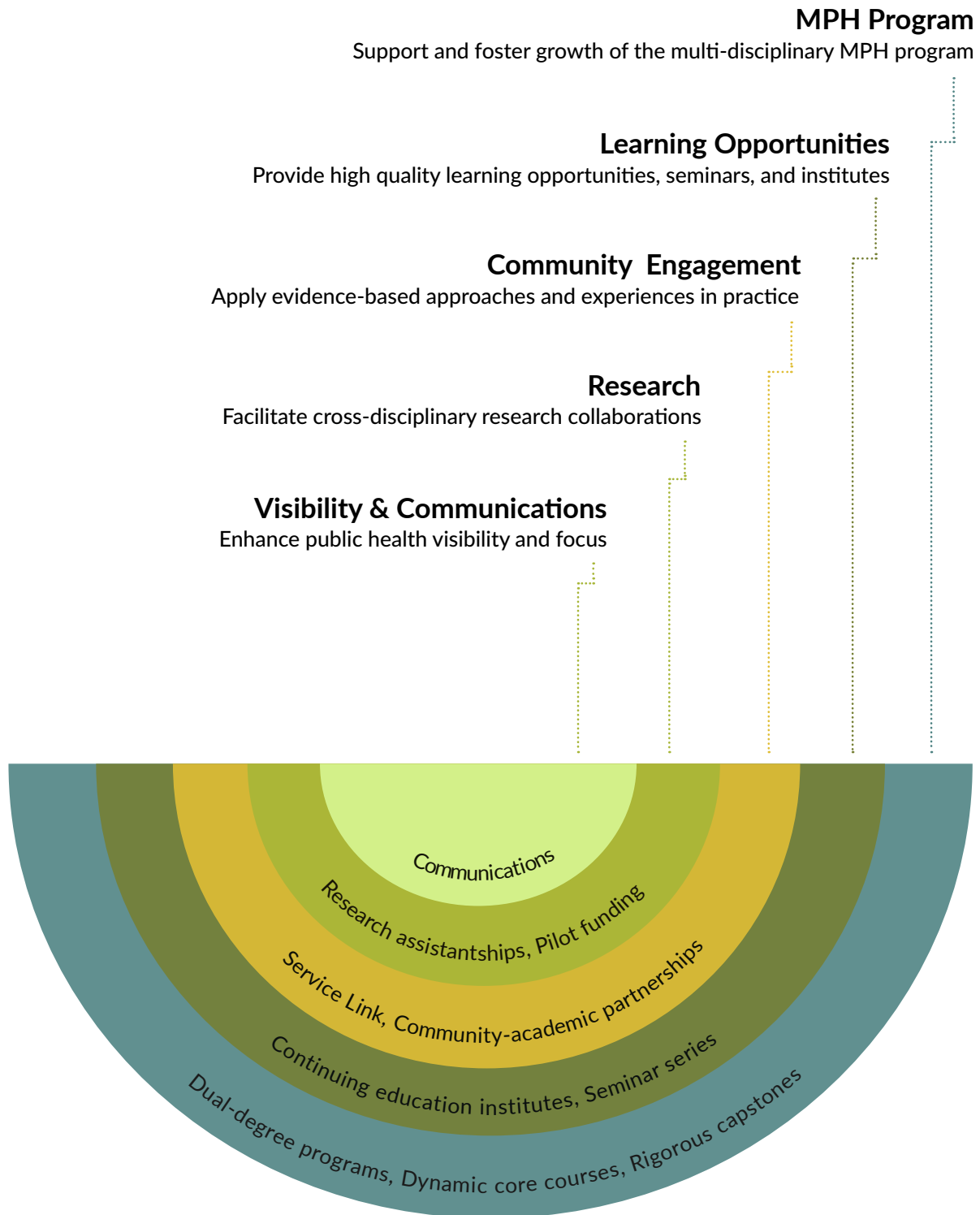
VISION

To improve the health and quality of life of populations

MISSION

To educate and train public health leaders and practitioners, foster multi-disciplinary collaboration, and promote excellence in public health research and community partnerships

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Luke Butler, MPH '15 & Alexis Singh, MPH '16 collecting data for the Voices of Health community project



Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA, speaking at the kickoff event for the 2014/15 Seminar Series: Conversations Around Cultures of Health September 19, 2014



Students and Brian Work, MD at Service Link event April 23, 2015



2015 MPH Graduation
May 18, 2015



Danfeng Wang, MPH '14, Susan Levy, MD, MPH, & Maryam Akbari, MPH '14 at the Fall 2014 MPH Capstone Presentations December 11, 2014



Philippe Bourgois, PhD, presenting at Seminar Series event Substance Abuse, Violence, and HIV: Changing Environments to Reduce Risk in North Philadelphia October 16, 2014

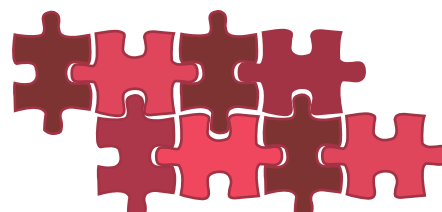


MPH PROGRAM

TRAINING INNOVATIVE THINKERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH & PRACTICE

DIRECTOR: ROSEMARY FRASSO, PhD, MSc, CPH

CPHI fosters the growth of a world-class, interdisciplinary Master of Public Health (MPH) Program. Here's how:



STRATEGY

1

Support MPH students' efforts to conduct research and carry out public health promotion activities

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● CPHI Fellows provided mentorship for 40 student capstone projects
- ● ● CPHI Fellows taught and guest lectured in MPH core courses and electives

STRATEGY

2

Provide opportunities for CPHI Fellows to dedicate their time to the MPH program

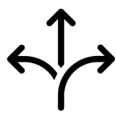
KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● As part of the Curriculum Committee...
 - ● Approved 9 new electives in the MPH program, bringing the total number of public health electives to 24
 - ● Offered public health students external graduate-level electives, with 115 courses available for students to explore
- ● ● As part of the Admission Committee...
 - ● Reviewed over 400 applications for fall 2015 admission
- ● ● Developed a cross-cutting evidence-based public health (EBPH) case about the epidemic of opioid misuse and overdose in Philadelphia

What makes the Penn MPH program unique?



Dynamic
Core Courses



Flexible
Electives



Rigorous
Capstone



Engaging
Fieldwork

Icons created by Alex Fuller, Barranco Hernandex, and Bjorn Andersson from Noun Project

STRATEGY

3

Create public health practice experiences for students via high quality fieldwork placements

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Provided oversight for 6,000 hours of student fieldwork across 50 local community, government, academic, and industry partner organizations
- ● ● Facilitated global placements for students in Botswana, Mozambique, Malawi, and China



Divya Vemuri, MPH '15, Alexandra Tomlinson, MPH '15, Shuo Wong, MPH '15, & Danielle Mosby, MPH '15 at the Summer 2015 MPH Capstone Presentations August 4, 2015



Dana Gatto, MPH '15, Kelsey Gangemi, MPH '15, and Nicole Frager '15 at the 2015 MPH Graduation Ceremony, May 18, 2015

STRATEGY

4

Increase support and visibility of MPH students' capstone projects

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Provided \$2,500 in competitive grants for student capstone projects
- ● ● Held MPH Student Capstone Presentations attended by over 300 members of the UPenn public health community
- ● ● Assisted over 20 MPH students and alumni who attended regional and national meetings to present their capstone work

STRATEGY

5

Engage students in campus-wide and local public health initiatives

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● 8 students assisted in the data collection and analysis of over 300 qualitative responses for the CPHI *Voices of Health* project
- ● ● 20 students volunteered at the HYPE Youth Leadership Summit with 21 middle schools
- ● ● 12 MPH students helped organize and run CPHI Seminar Series events



Clockwise from top left: Kelsey Gangemi, MPH '15, Tirza Calderon, MPH '15, & Darra Finnerty, MPH '16 at the 2015 MPH Graduation Ceremony on 05/18/15; Senior Pediatric Tuberculosis Research Nurse, Malebogo Ntshimane with Christian Stillson, MPH '15 in Gaborone, Botswana Summer 2014; Current MPH students Allison Golinkoff, Nelou Rahai, Matthew Kearney, & Zhi Pan; Michael Brennan, MPH '15 receiving a Certificate of Appreciation on 11/07/14.



Aaron Rak, MPH '13 at the MPH Career Panel
April 17, 2015



Bethany Hall, MPH' 14, Jeane Ann Grisso, MD, and Maddy LaFerla Jenni, MPH '14, at the
Fall 2014 MPH Capstone Presentations, December 9, 2014



MOVING FORWARD

- ➔ Increase international fieldwork partnerships with the Center for Global Health
- ➔ Expand opportunities for UPenn's undergraduates to engage in CPHI events and submatriculate into the MPH program
- ➔ Continue to engage faculty from across the University to provide mentorship to students and teach public health courses

“It was great to see that the results of [my capstone] project submitted to the administration actually produced change.”

MPH student
Makuu Black Cultural Center

PEOPLE OF CPHI



"Introducing public health scholars and practitioners to mapping and spatial analysis through the Summer Institute is such a privilege. Folks who are new to GIS software often have the most creative and exciting ideas about how to apply their new tools. I am always energized by the experience."

AMY HILLIER, PhD, MSW
CPHI SENIOR FELLOW
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

"I came to the program hungry to learn...I came in with great expectations that were met and surpassed. I was nourished, nurtured, challenged, and prepared to think about and contribute to the health of the public both locally and globally, by the professors who possessed diverse educational backgrounds and experiences."



HARRIET OKATCH, PhD, MPH (2015)
SENIOR LECTURER IN CHEMISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA



ADINA LIEBERMAN, MPH (2014)
RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGER
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE &
COMMUNITY HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

"Since graduating in May 2014, I have had the pleasure of sitting on a capstone panel at the end of each semester. I've recently joined the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health in the Perelman School of Medicine, where I have had the opportunity to work with many CPHI fellows who also serve as faculty and community liaisons in the department. Most recently, I've joined the Admission Committee for the MPH program...I hope to bring a unique alumni perspective to the applicant pool."

"I'm passionate about bringing together biomedical sciences and public health. With a PhD in Biochemistry, I ran an NIH-funded research laboratory for almost 20 years. With my Penn MPH in 2011, I moved from "proteins to populations". I combine these passions through co-directing the Public Health Certificate Program (PHCP) for biomedical doctoral students with a keen interest in public health; co-teaching a pathophysiology course for MPH students, helping them better understand the fundamentals of chronic and acute diseases; and teaching a Freshmen Seminar on public health problem of antibiotic resistance."



HILLARY NELSON, PhD, MPH
CPHI SENIOR FELLOW
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
BIOCHEMISTRY & BIOPHYSICS
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

CPHI works with students, alumni, faculty, practitioners, and community-based organizations to provide high quality learning opportunities, seminars, and institutes. Here's how:

STRATEGY

1

Offer high quality seminars to increase public health knowledge and leadership

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Successfully launched our 2014/15 Seminar Series: *Conversations around Cultures of Health* presenting diverse expert speakers across the fields of health, philanthropy, medicine, psychology, marketing, law, and policy
- ● Over 1,000 total registrants in eight CPHI-led and four partner seminars with average attendance of approximately 100 per CPHI seminar
- ● Increased cross-discipline representation; 30% of registrants included individuals from outside academic, non-profit, government, industry, and community-based organizations
- ● ● Inaugurated new MPH Brownbag guest lecture series for MPH students

STRATEGY

2

Educate and train the current and future public health workforce

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Hosted two learning institutes:
 - ● Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research Institute led by Dr. Rosemary Frasso (Director of Education, MPH Program)
 - 25 participants
 - 8 expert instructors
 - ● Summer Institute on GIS and Public Health led by Dr. Amy Hillier (Associate Professor, Penn Design)
 - 22 participants
 - 5 expert instructors



Tara MacDowell, MPH '14, Victoria Ulrich, MPH '14, & Marion Leary, MPH '14 at the Fall 2014 MPH Capstone Presentations, December 9, 2014

STRATEGY

3

Increase public health career development for students, alumni, and the broader public health community

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Engaged 60 MPH students in the MPH Required Fieldwork Experience (RFE) to provide practical public health skills
- ● ● Initiated MPH Career Panel featuring professionals from public health sectors including global health, philanthropy, food access, and more
 - ● 10 expert panelists including recent MPH alumni
 - ● 45 MPH participants



MOVING FORWARD

- ➔ Engage alumni with additional training in the broad field of public health
- ➔ Expand learning institutes and opportunities for public health professionals
- ➔ Broaden partner opportunities for CPHI seminars

“The Winter Institute was extremely valuable to our team. We are using the skills we learned in the training to complement our quantitative research with rigorous qualitative research, providing our stakeholders with a more holistic understanding of community development trends and issues.”

Noelle Baldini, Community Engagement Associate
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
2015 Winter Institute Participant

PEOPLE OF CPHI

“In a fundamental way, CPHI is the public health identity at Penn... it provides a home for public health education through the MPH degree and a matrix program to bring like-minded faculty together around a common educational purpose and research interest. For me personally, teaching my course on theories and systems and this exposure to this intellectual diversity has directly influenced and strengthened my own research program.”



ROBERT SCHNOLL, PhD
CPHI SENIOR FELLOW

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
CO-LEADER, TOBACCO & ENVIRONMENTAL CARCINOGENESIS PROGRAM, ABRAMSON CANCER CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



“Being a CPHI fellow allows for wonderful opportunities for networking, community engagement, and research-community partnerships. For the past several years I’ve participated in the Winter Institute on qualitative methods and taught MPH students...I have been inspired by energized and creative students and networking with passionate activists, scholars, and community partners.”

MELISSA DICHTER, PhD, MSW
CPHI ADJUNCT FELLOW

RESEARCH HEALTH SCIENTIST
VA CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH AND PROMOTION (CHERP)



"Health is impacted by complex and intertwined systems. The value of an inter-disciplinary perspective is to see the interconnections and foster collaborations across sectors. The complexities emphasize the need to prioritize health and health equity as an outcome within the decision making process, which will result in healthier communities and a healthier nation."

KATIE MEIRS, MPH (2014)
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE
ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

"Completing my MPH was an incredible chance for both knowledge and skill acquisition. I was able to build and practice valuable research skills that will aid me as I pursue a career in academic pediatrics. I gained a greater appreciation for the myriad of ways in which health can be measured and affected. Finally, spending time in the public health community was wonderfully enriching. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity."



ATU AGAWU, MD, MPH (2015)
PEDIATRIC RESIDENT
THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

DIRECTOR: HEATHER KLUSARITZ, PhD, MSW

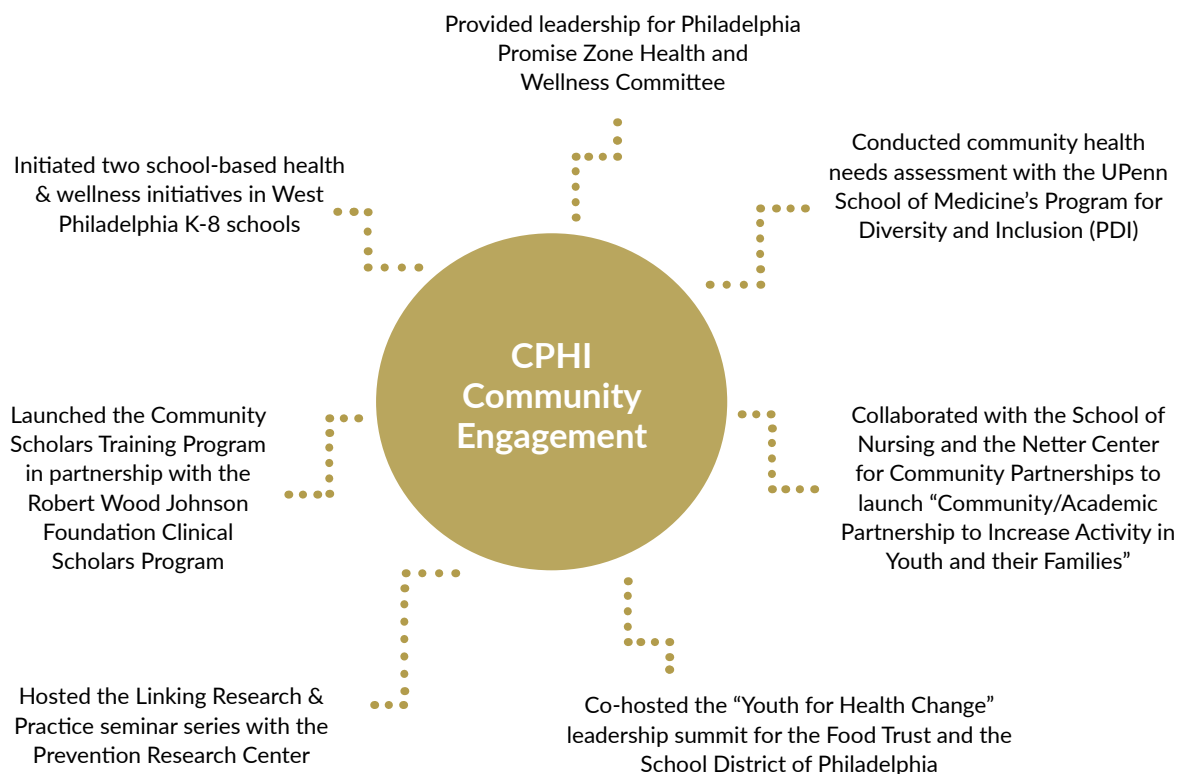
CPHI fosters evidence-based approaches to public health practice through both strong relationships with schools and centers across UPenn's campus and meaningful community-academic partnerships, emphasizing translation of science into sustainable health improvements. Here's how:

STRATEGY

1

Collaborate with community-engaged university partners to align CPHI's initiatives with existing programs and activities to respond to community needs

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



STRATEGY

2

Expand Service Link, a cross-university student organization that aims to improve the health of Philadelphians by linking them with public benefits and community resources to address the social determinants of health

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Active in 5 sites in FY15; connected over 250 clients with public benefits and resources
- ● ● Expanded the model from a primary care clinic base to a community site base, thus building our partnerships in schools and other host public health organizations in West Philadelphia
- ● ● Engaged 60 student volunteers from 6 schools at the University and created an 8-member interdisciplinary student leadership team – over a 50% increase in student engagement in 2 years
- ● ● Developed and implemented a secure case management database
- ● ● Developed and implemented an evaluation plan to assess impact on client outcomes

STRATEGY

3

Increase opportunities for community-based organizations to engage with CPHI fellows and students and to participate in learning opportunities

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Collaborated with over 30 community organizations in our 5th annual Community Driven Research Day
- ● ● Reached over 200 community-based organizations in CPHI's 2014/15 seminar series
- ● ● Linked over 50 MPH students in meaningful public health fieldwork experiences and maintained partnerships with a cross-section of local and national community organizations



MOVING FORWARD

- ➔ Continue to expand and strengthen CPHI's service and school-based initiatives
- ➔ Develop training for community organizations in south and southwest Philadelphia to facilitate community-academic partnerships
- ➔ Increase the visibility of CPHI's community-engaged work to expand partnership opportunities and address community needs

PEOPLE OF CPHI



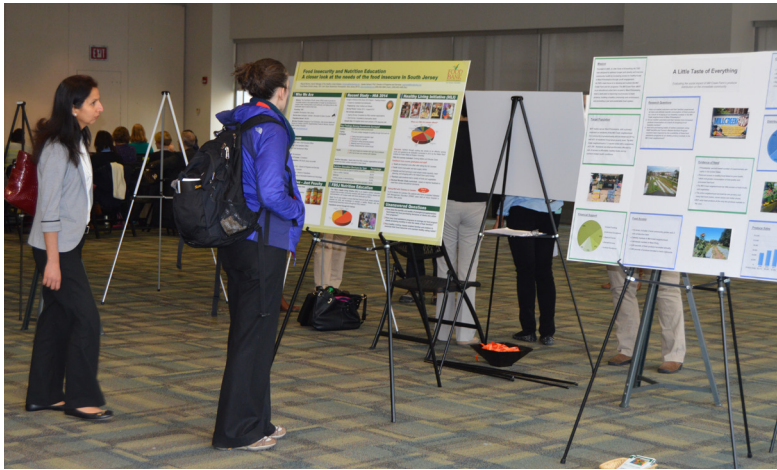
“Community-Driven Research Day is in its 5th year and continues to support the important concept of community and academic partners working hand in hand to address research questions of interest to the community. In addition to promoting collaborative relationships between community and academic partnerships, the unique collaboration between five Philadelphia-based academic institutional sponsors has been extremely rewarding and demonstrates the ability to work across institutional boundaries to achieve a common goal.”

AYANA BRADSHAW, MPH
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR INJURY RESEARCH & PREVENTION
CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA



“MPH and other fieldwork participants are vital because they bring questions and perspectives about what impacts a community’s health well beyond the narrow medical definition of “health” as “absence of disease.” They want to figure out ways that systems large and small can be designed to impact the social determinants of health, including housing, income, employment, education, and safety. On a practical level, they help us implement projects that we otherwise could not have accomplished.”

LAURA WEINBAUM, MA
CPHI ADJUNCT FELLOW
VICE PRESIDENT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
PROJECT HOME



Clockwise starting at top left: The 5th Community Driven Research Day held at Temple University on 01/29/15; 2015 HYPE High School Summit held at the University of Pennsylvania's Hall of Flags on 01/22/15; José Ramón Fernández-Peña, MD, MPA speaking with a community member after his Seminar Series talk Immigrant Health, Workforce Diversity, & Cross-Cultural Communication on 12/05/14; Panel of veterans at the Seminar Series event From War to Home: Art, Creativity, and Advocacy as Pathways to Recovery from Trauma on 02/04/15; Ryan Coffman, MPH, CHES speaking at the Seminar Series event Fact, Fiction, & Local Action: Resetting the Norm for Tobacco Use in Behavioral Health Settings on 11/20/14.



Zhi Pan, MPH '16, Graceann Palmarella, MPH '16, Karen Glanz, PhD, MPH, & Manikaa Nayee, MPH '17

RESEARCH

FACILITATING COLLABORATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH RELATED RESEARCH

DIRECTOR: KAREN GLANZ, PhD, MPH

CPHI works with faculty in several centers, institutes, and departments across the university to facilitate collaboration for public health related research at the University. Here's how:

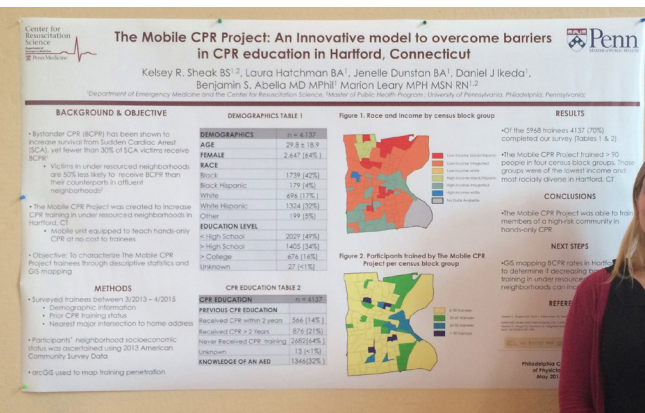
STRATEGY

1

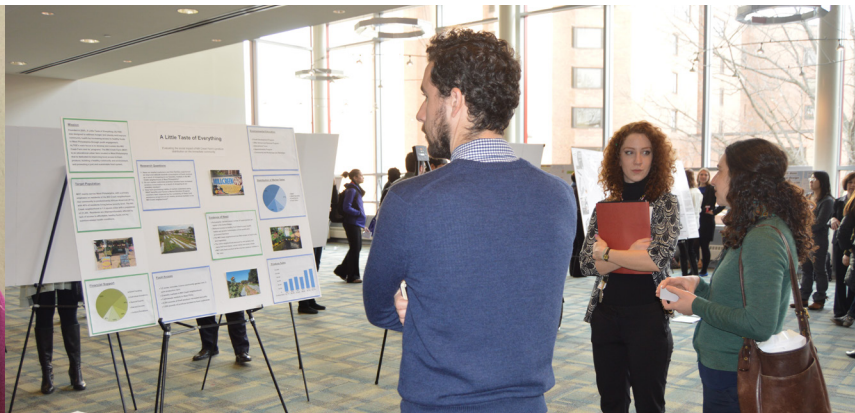
Provide research-focused public health students special access to research opportunities

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Successfully launched our first cohort of six research assistantships linking MPH students and UPenn faculty across various departments
- ● ● Student poster presentations displayed at local and national public health meetings including the College of Physicians (11 student posters) and the 2014 American Public Health Association Conference (12 student posters)



Kelsey Sheak, MPH '15 at the College of Physicians Poster Session, May 5, 2015



5th Annual Community Driven Research Day, January 29, 2015

STRATEGY

2

Stimulate dialogue and generate creative ideas for expanding community oriented translational research, and evidence-based practice, in our region

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Hosted three seminars focused on linking research and practice for CPHI faculty fellows, featuring guest experts who are leaders of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Regional Health and Human Services, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

STRATEGY

3

Fund promising pilot research initiatives through an annual "Call for Proposals" for interdisciplinary public health research endeavors

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Awarded \$10,000 in pilot funding to a community-academic partnership project entitled "Community Integration: A Psychometrically Sound, Usable Tool for Agencies"

“ Our pilot funding enabled researchers from the School of Social Policy and Practice to partner with Elwyn, a community-based organization, to develop a scale to measure community integration for people with serious mental illness. The tool fills a gap in the field and will support providers and consumers to talk about goals and strategies, enhance treatment planning, and measure progress in fostering community integration.”

Ryan Petros, LICSW, Doctoral Candidate,
UPenn School of Social Policy and Practice
2014 Pilot Funding Recipient



MOVING FORWARD

- Expand public health pilot grant funding that results in successful grant applications or refereed publications
- Increase opportunities for CPHI fellows' research to support [and influence] the work of practitioners through translation and dissemination
- Optimize the functionality of existing faculty collaboration/networks across the university

VISIBILITY & COMMUNICATIONS

ENHANCING PUBLIC HEALTH FOCUS AND VISIBILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY

CPHI enhances public health visibility and focus and serves as an institutional home for public health through university-wide partnerships and a comprehensive communications strategy. Here's how:

STRATEGY

1

Raise awareness of and visibility for public health at the University

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Sent out 14 CPHI electronic newsletters (CPHI Digest) to a listserve of over 2,000 individuals to highlight the work and achievements of CPHI fellows, students, staff, alumni, and the broader public health community
- ● ● Tweeted with 740 followers and amassed 1,100 tweets
- ● ● Accrued over 15,000 website visitors
- ● ● Created *Voices of Health*, a month-long photo exhibit that captured what "health" means to members of the UPenn community, including faculty, staff, students, and residents who live near or around campus



Voices of Health participants, Fall 2014 & Spring 2015



Lunchtime Wellness Walk, June 16, 2015



1st University Supported HYPE High School Summit, January 22, 2015

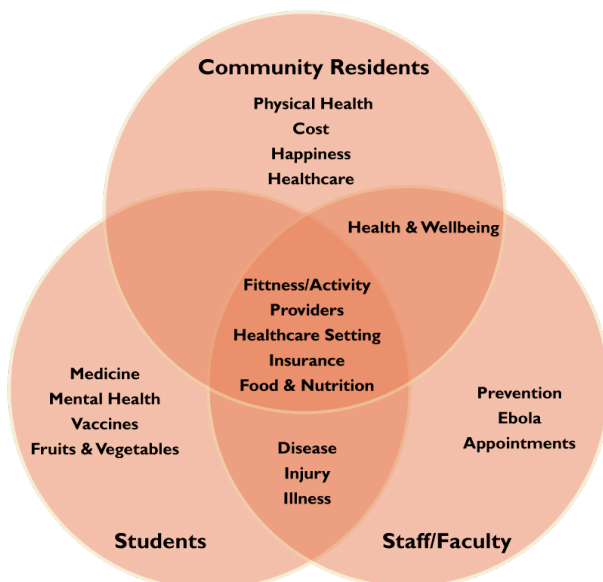
STRATEGY

2

Expand the nexus between public health partnerships and collaborations on campus

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ● ● Collaborated on public health events and activities across 12 schools and over 50 UPenn centers, departments, and programs
- ● ● Partnered with the School of Nursing, Netter Center, and Office of Government and Community Affairs to deliver the first University-affiliated Healthy Youth Positive Energy (HYPE) leadership summit for over 100 Philadelphia high school students
- ● ● Established the Healthy Penn partnership with Human Resources, Campus Health, and Penn Athletics to increase the availability and awareness of wellness activities on campus



Results from Voices of Health, a freelist analysis of responses from faculty and staff, students, and community residents when asked "what words come to mind when you think about health?"



OUR UNIVERSITY PARTNERS



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ADVISORY BOARD

Dawn Bonnell, PhD

Charles Branas, PhD

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Specialist



Rosemary Frasso, PhD, MSc, CPH
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MPH Program



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Alexandra Hanlon	Christina Roberto	
Amy Hillier	David Rubin	

FIELDWORK PLACEMENT SITES

Access Matters	Office of Emergency Management
African Family Health Organization (AFHO)	Philadelphia Department of Public Health
American Diabetes Association	Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management
American Heart Association	Physicians for Reproductive Health - Leadership Training Academy
Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia	Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers	Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY)
Community Behavioral Health	Public Health Management Corporation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	Puentes De Salud
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)	Save Your Soles Campaign
Clean Air Council	Sayre Health Center
Covenant House	Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
DC Department of Public Health	St. Christopher's Foundation for Children
Earth's Keepers	Sunday Suppers
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	The Bicycle Coalition
Health Promotion Council	The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
Healthy News Works	The Philadelphia Foundation
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)	United Community Clinic
Huey Elementary School	UNC Malawi Surgical Initiative
Kinetic Learning	University of Pennsylvania
Lutheran Settlement House	Visiting Nurse Service of NYC
Mayor's Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity	Volunteer Medical Service Corps
Maternity Care Coalition	Women's Way
Makou Black Cultural Center	Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
National Services Center	



TO OUR MPH FACULTY
AND STUDENTS, CPHI FELLOWS, AND
COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO ARE THE
HEART OF OUR WORK -

Thank You